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FINANCE AND COMMERCE.

The Bureau of Statistics of the United States Treasury Department has published a useful compendium entitled *National, State, Private, and Savings Banks; Bonds, Paper Currency and Coin; Production and Value of Precious Metals; Coinage, etc., 1789-1898*.

For example, tables show the specie circulation, capital, and number of banks from 1774 to 1804, the resources and liabilities of the Second United States Bank from 1817 to 1837, the number and capital of State banks at different periods from 1792 to 1834, and the number of banks and their principal resources and liabilities by States from 1834 to 1897 (31 pages). There has been a rapid increase in the number of State banks within the past few years. Statistics are as follows:—

1887	1,422	1893	3,579
1888	1,403	1894	3,586
1889	1,671	1895	3,774
1890	2,101	1896	3,708
1891	2,572	1897	3,873
1892	3,191		

Large increases are shown in West Virginia, Mississippi, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and the Western States generally.

There has recently been published by the *Institut des Sciences Sociales* an *Atlas de Statistique Comparée de la Monnaie Métallique et Représentation et de l'Histoire des Prix*, by H. Denis. This contains three plates, showing the production of gold and silver by kilograms from 1492 until the present time, the annual value of the gold and silver production for the same period of time, and the consumption of the precious metals since 1851.

Thirteenth Annual Report of the Kansas Bureau of Labor and Industrial Statistics, 1897. W. L. A. Johnson, Commissioner. Topeka, 1898; pp. 400.

In addition to the customary investigations in regard to industries, wages, factory inspection, etc., a special investigation has been made in regard to assessment and taxation in 30 counties, using as a basis nearly 4000 transfers of real estate having a selling value of over \$4,000,000, together with comparisons of assessment and taxation on investments in manufacturing and industrial concerns consisting

of improvements, buildings, and machinery. This report is of special value, as furnishing abundant material, illustrating inequality of assessment in different portions of the same State. In Atchison County the proportion of assessed valuation to real or selling value ranged from 9 per cent to 53.3 per cent. An analysis of this portion of the report is added, written by Prof. Bemis of the Kansas State Agricultural College.

The October, 1898, issue of the *Monthly Summary of Commerce and Finance of the United States*, issued by the Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury Department, Washington, contains special tables on canal statistics. Statistics are given for traffic through the Suez Canal, Kaiser William Canal, Canadian Canal, St. Mary's Falls Canal, and the New York canals.

The English *Board of Trade Journal*, November, 1898, contains, on p. 522, an interesting map to illustrate the trade and shipping of northern Africa. Not only are the railways indicated, but the caravan trade routes through the Sahara desert. The map extends on the south as far as Timbuctoo, Gao, and Omdurman. The September and October numbers also contained articles and maps on the trade of the British, French, and German colonies on the east and west African coast. This series of articles will be of help in understanding the commercial importance of Africa to the European world.

The *Review of the Trade of India in 1897-98*, compiled by the Statistical Bureau of India, by J. A. Robertson (Simla, 1898, pp. 77), contains an interesting chart showing the course of exchange in India, and the price of silver in London from the beginning of 1893 to the end of August, 1898.

The November number of the *Street Railway Journal* contains the results of accounts kept by the Metropolitan Street Railway Company of New York City, on the cost of operating street railroads by electricity, cable, and horses for the year ending June 30, 1898. In brief, the accounts show as follows per mile: Cable, 16.42 cents; electricity, 10.23; horses, 17.87. An analysis of this report may also be found in the *Street Railway Supplement* of the *Commercial and Financial Chronicle*, November 26, 1898.

It is announced by the Secretary of the National Wool Association of Manufacturers that a third edition of the *Wool Book* will be published in February, 1899. The new edition will record the figures in regard to the imports of free wool, and also contain a large number of additional statistics not previously available.

In *Municipal Engineering* for November, 1898, p. 277, a table has been published, prepared by the committee on electric street lighting, for the American Society of Municipal Improvements, showing the cities in the United States which operate their own electric lighting plants at the present time. The table shows the cities with lamps of 2000 candle power, 1200 candle power, and smaller plants. Statistics of cost, price, etc., are furnished.

At the fifth annual convention of the American Society of Municipal Improvements, held at Washington, October 26th, a report was submitted by a Special Committee on Municipal Data which had been appointed the previous year. It is noted that the annual reports of municipal departments of different cities show great lack of uniformity. Much of this is due to the great differences in the methods of keeping accounts, and of beginning and carrying forward public works on account of variations in State laws, city charters, and local conditions. It is believed, however, that these variations can be reduced very greatly by a general agreement following as closely as possible forms of reports afterwards suggested. The committee subsequently presented form of water-works reports, sewerage reports, and street reports, and suggestions that forms for other lines of municipal work be prepared by experts in those lines. It is recommended that when the schedules are finally adopted by the committee, a resolution be passed by the Association recommending the adoption of the schedules by the Census Bureau of 1900. It is the opinion of this committee that a permanent census bureau should be established, and that the collection of municipal statistics properly belongs to such a bureau. The schedules of the reports suggested may be found on pp. 295-98 of the November number of *Municipal Engineering*.

In the *Twentieth Annual Report of the Board of Railway Commissioners of Iowa for the year ending June 30, 1897* (Des Moines, 1898), complaint is made that the Board has been unable to obtain certain statistics asked for of the different lines of railway. Some companies refuse or fail to return the desired information, assigning

as a reason that they cannot comply with the request of the Board, except upon what is known as a mileage basis, and suggesting that statistics upon such a basis are not reliable, or are misleading. It has been found practically impossible for the Board to obtain from the reports furnished by railways operating lines through the State, and within other States, reliable statistics that would enable it to determine the earnings of that part of the line operated in Iowa. Where the officers of the companies have attempted to give this information it has been upon a mileage basis of their entire lines regardless of population of territory or traffic carried.

In the *Annual Report of the Inspector of Finance of the State of Vermont, June 30, 1898*, it appears that the aggregate deposits in the savings banks and trust companies were \$34,071,721, an increase of \$1,471,094. The total number of deposit accounts was 108,511, of which 12,940 belong to non-residents. There were 2569 accounts of over \$1500 in the banks. Twenty-two savings banks paid 4 per cent interest, and one $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. The Inspector of Finance recommends that dividends be limited to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent until 15 per cent surplus has been accumulated.

MISCELLANEOUS.

At the National Convention of Charities and Corrections, held in New York in May, a committee was appointed to revise the national statistical blank which was originally prepared some ten years ago. This committee has now reported, and presents the following form:—

CAUSES WITHIN THE FAMILY.

- Disregard of family ties. (Desertion, neglect to contribute by children, brothers, sisters or other natural supporters.)
- Intemperance. (Abuse of stimulants or narcotics.)
- Dishonesty or other moral defects.
- Lack of thrift, industry or judgment.
- Physical or mental defects. (Blind, deaf, crippled from birth, insane, feeble-minded.)
- Sickness, accident or death.

CAUSES OUTSIDE THE FAMILY.

- Lack of employment not due to employé. (Changes in trade, introduction of machinery, hard times, strike or lockout, partial or complete shut-down, removal of industry, etc.)
- Defective sanitation.
- Degrading surroundings.
- Unwise philanthropy.
- Public calamity.

UNCLASSIFIED.